



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 1999

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Thirty-ninth session

7 June–2 July 1999

Draft report

Addendum

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 13. Human settlements

1. At its 17th and 18th meetings, on 16 and 17 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 13, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 13)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. The ongoing process of revitalization of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was welcomed and supported. It was noted that the refocusing of the programme of work resulted in two subprogrammes instead of four and corresponded to the two major themes of the Habitat Agenda.
4. The view was expressed that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was undergoing a process of restructuring to make it more responsive to the requirements of implementing the Habitat Agenda as well as to the needs of Member States. In this connection, there was a need for the international community to support the Centre.
5. It was observed that the work programme of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2000–2001 was approved by the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth session in May 1999. The need to review and update the programme budget document to reflect the outcome of the session was underscored.



6. Concern was expressed about the use in the document of concepts and terms that had not been endorsed and were still under consideration by the General Assembly. In this regard, it was noted that there might be a need to review the inclusion in the narrative of such concepts in accordance with pertinent decisions of the General Assembly and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The view was expressed that there was scope for the refinement of the paragraph on expected accomplishments. The view was expressed that programme managers needed to implement more fully the above-mentioned Regulations and Rules, which require self-evaluation and identification of activities that are inefficient, ineffective or irrelevant. The view was also expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some activities dealing with economic and social affairs.

7. It was emphasized that the programme of work should be consistent with the medium-term plan, taking into account the outcome of the restructuring of Habitat. It was noted that the issues of rural settlements did not receive sufficient attention and that they should be addressed by the programme, which tended to focus too much on urbanization and city issues. Attention was drawn to the need to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda. It was also suggested that there should be more coordinated actions and cooperation within the United Nations system to facilitate the implementation of the activities under the section.

8. The need to recruit consultants on a broad geographical basis was underlined.

9. It was felt that the overall amount of the resources requested for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Habitat Agenda might not be sufficient. In this respect it was observed with concern that other sections of the proposed programme budget also contained resource requirements for the special session. The view was expressed that all the resource requirements for the special session should be reflected under section 13. It was observed that the resource growth in the section was associated mostly with the requirements of the special session.

10. Concern was expressed regarding the relatively high level of extrabudgetary resources vis-à-vis the regular budget resources. At the same time, it was observed that the projections for extrabudgetary resources might be over-optimistic. It was emphasized that the cost-sharing arrangements in Nairobi between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Office at Nairobi and UNEP needed to be clarified and that savings resulting from the restructuring of the Centre, in particular in connection with the transfer of certain functions to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, needed to be identified.

11. It was stressed that all the components under the two subprogrammes should be addressed adequately, and balanced funding should be provided for their implementation.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to reformulate the narrative of section 13, Human settlements, in conformity with the standard presentation of the other sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the resolutions and decisions of relevant intergovernmental bodies subject to the final approval of the General Assembly. The

revised narrative should be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-fourth session.

13. The Committee recommended that the eighth sentence of paragraph 13.3 referring to the deliberations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which has no official mandate, be deleted.

14. The Committee recommended that in the second sentence of paragraph 13.25 the word "obligations" be replaced with "role" and the word "dwellings" be replaced with "housing".
